supply projects from the funds provided under ARWSP The detail of the said projects is not maintained at the Central level.

(d) Under ARWSP, grant is not given to Voluntary Organizations/ NGOs

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The targets are fixed with reference to the allocation and the State Governments are consulted in target fixation exercise. The achievements are monitored through Monthly Progress Reports as well as through conferences with State Government representatives are also held periodically wherein the progress is reviewed.

Conference of Union and State Ministers regarding drinking water in rural areas

1764. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any conference of Union and State Ministers was held to discuss about drinking water in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details of issues discussed;

(c) the recommendations made and the action proposed to be taken;

(d) whether drinking water is to be provided to all the villages under the Bharat Nirman Programme;

(e) if so, the details thereof including investment to be made; and

(f) the targets fixed and achievements made so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) A Conference of State Ministers in charge of rural drinking water supply and sanitation was held on 31st January-1st February 2006 in New Delhi. The Conference was inaugurated by the Prime Minister and it was attended by State Ministers in-charge of rural drinking water and sanitation and officers of Central and State Governments.

(b) and (c) The issues discussed during the Conference were— review of the progress made in the current year under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP), Swajaldhara and Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC), increasing the role of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)

in decentralized service delivery and system sustainability, strategy for effective implementation of the drinking water component of Bharat Nirman, promotion of source strengthening measures, integrated approach to tackling water quality problems, water quality monitoring and surveillance and policy and implementation issues pertaining to TSC including creation of awareness and social mobilization.

The following resolutions were adopted during the Conference:

- Work towards achieving the goals set under Bharat Nirman, *i.e.,* provision of at least 40 litres per capita per day (Ipcd) of safe drinking water to all habitations, in a time bound manner, in the next four years;
- Cover the remaining 55,067 uncovered habitations;
- Tackle water quality affected habitations to provide safe drinking water in a sustainable manner, with priority to tackling problems of arsenic, fluoride and salinity;
- Augment water supply in all habitations that have siipped back from full coverage;
- To improve the governance of delivery structure for rural water supply and sanitation;
- To increasingly entrust the responsibility of rural water supply management to local institutions and build their capacity in this regard;
- Provide safe drinking water to all the schools of the country by end of 2007;
- Provide sanitary Toilet facilities to all the schools of the country by the end of March 2007;
- Promote Community/group roof-top rain water harvesting, especially in Government buildings, institutional buildings, schools, industrial units etc. in rural areas and integrated water recharge to augment the water supply for drinking purposes;
- Move towards enactment of Ground Water Regulations and control and development legislation, which could include provision for recharging of ground water;

- Involve Gram Panchayats/Village Water and Sanitation Committees in regular water quality monitoring and surveillance;
- To report all achievement against the targets set on the web-based monitoring system on-line;
- Give more importance to Total Sanitation Campaign to achieve the goal of full sanitation by 2012, with full backing for the Campaign at the highest political and official level in the State,
- Make at least one district in each State fully open defecation-free by end of 2006;
- Put Rural India in a place of pride amongst the Nations of the World.

In addition, the following major recommendations were made in the Conference:

1) Total Sanitation Campaign:

- Increase in unit cost of household and anganwadi toilets and inclusion of solid and liquid waste management in the project.
- Removing community contribution from construction of school and anganwadi toilets.
- A national and state level mass media campaign should be launched on Television and Radio for creation of awareness.
- Population slabs for awarding Nirmal Gram Puraskar should be increased.

2) Implementation of ARWSP in the Eleventh Plan for institutionalization of community participation:

- Institutionalization of community participation and involvement of Gram Panchayats in a phased manner and only one rural water supply scheme from the Eleventh Plan.
- Community contribution of at least 10% of the estimated capital cost of the scheme to be an integral part of all rural drinking water supply schemes. It may be only 2.5% for SC/ ST habitations. The extent of community contribution could be paid in cash, labour, land or material or a combination of

these. The minimum contribution per household to be decided by the State. In difficult single village schemes, quality affected habitations, piped water supply from distant sources and multi-village schemes, the State may decide on quantum of community contribution for common facilities.

- Central and State Governments will bear the balance capital cost of approved schemes (after deducting the community contribution). In case of difficult single village schemes and multi-village schemes, Government agency will bring water from the source to the entry point of the village. The capital cost of schemes upto the entry point of habitation will be shared by Central and State Government. The distribution network of water supply inside the village/habitation will be constructed with involvement of the Gram Panchayat/Village Water and Sanitation Committees, with community contribution and subsequent Operation & Maintenance. They will be assisted by PHED in the process.

3) Coverage and its norms, technology options, source and system sustainability, water quality monitoring and surveillance:

- The distance of the water source should be 0.5 kilometre instead of 1.6 kilometre and 30 metres elevation instead of 100 metres in hilly areas to lessen the drudgery of carrying water from distant source.
- In hilly areas, the population criteria should be relaxed to cover habitations with 50 persons or more or more than 10 households to all.
- There is need for earmarking funds for rooftop/catchment based rainwater harvesting and this water may be treated as coverage as distinguished from recharging of ground water.
- Women and youth of rural areas be trained to operate and maintain water supply systems. Manuals/guidelines be developed for this purpose.
- Distribution systems be improved for minimizing the leakages. States should come up with means to prevent leakages in the distribution systems to make it economical with cost recovery.

- Good production centres/sanitary marts/self-help groups, etc. should be utilized for supply of spare parts, training of local rural youth and women as mechanics for Operation & Maintenance of water sources and also involved in water quality monitoring and maintenance.

4) Some of the States have requested for the funding pattern of ARWSP between Center and State to be in the ratio of 75:25 and North Eastern States have requested for this ratio to be 90:10 for consideration of the Government.

(d) to (f) Drinking Water Supply is one of the six components of Bharat Nirman, which has been conceived as a plan to be implemented in four years, from 2005-06 in 2008-09 for building rural infrastructure. The proposed coverage in respect of rural drinking water supply under Bharat Nirman (2005-06 to 2008-09) is:

- Coverage of 55067 uncovered habitations
- Coverage of water quality affected habitations Coverage of slipped back habitations based on 2003 survey with priority to tackling problems of arsenic, fluoride and salinity.
- Coverage of slipped back habitations.

Financial requirement for drinking water component of Bharat Nirman during 2005-09:

- Central Share : Rs. 25,300 crore
- State Share : Rs. 16,336.97 crore
- Total : Rs. 41,636.97 crore

During the 2005-06, the outlay for the Department of Drinking Water Supply is Rs. 4,050 crore which is increased to Rs. 4,060 crore. The State/UT Governments have reported coverage of 54,890 habitations, including slipped back and quality affected habitations till 31.1.2006 against the yearly target of 56,270.

Providing drinking water to desert villages

1765. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of desert villages where drinking water facility **was** provided during the last two years;